



STOP

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Newsletter

October 2007

Welcome to the October Newsletter

This month has been an active month for **SISHA** and we have seen some very important activity involving police and policy change.

The Cambodian National Police re-structured some of their policing departments and have now created a new Rape Investigation Unit who is responsible for all rape, sexual assault and domestic violence crimes.

This new unit is under the direct control of the Director of Anti Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection Department, Major General Bith Kim Hong. The creation of this new unit means that the investigation of rape and sexual assault will be more controlled and monitored by one department and finally shows that Cambodia now recognises domestic violence as a crime against the person that is occurring in Cambodia in growing numbers. Previous investigations into these serious crimes were conducted by any police officer who received a complaint and in most cases covered up by police.



‘Russian pedophile shortly after his arrest’

Unfortunately, as Cambodia develops and accepts western influences, other negative and socially impacting issues such as exposure to the Internet, television and pornographic material and an increase in alcohol, drugs and gaming/gambling establishments has meant that incidents of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence has also increased.

This coupled with an ever growing sex industry has resulted in an increase in serious crime and numbers of offenders involved in illegal activity. The growth in serious crime rates and the complexity of offenders committing the crimes has in some cases exposed the inability and under resourced capacity of the Cambodia National Police to investigate these crimes.

Over the past 3 months, in cooperation with The Asia Foundation, **SISHA** has conducted a research study into current Cambodia National Police training programs for new recruits and for specialist departments like the Anti Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection Department and Criminal Investigation Department. The report which identified numerous problems with current police training programs which are seriously affecting the ability of the Cambodia National Police to increase their policing capacity, will be launched at the ‘National Taskforce Working Group on Prosecution’ forum on the 16th of November 2007. The report will be available for public viewing on www.sisha.org after that date. Hopefully, the release of this report will be the first step forward in encouraging the Cambodia Government to create a standardised Cambodia National Police training program and specialist training course for police units who investigate serious crime.



‘Police search the offender’s house’

Thailand and Cambodia had some high profile media attention this month with the arrest of Canadian national Christopher Neil for rape and indecent sexual acts with young boys in Thailand and Cambodia. The documented evidence against Neil indicates that he and other pedophiles have been operating in Thailand and Cambodia with reasonable impunity from prosecution and had unlimited access to young children for several years. Unfortunately, Cambodia has in recent years seen an increase in foreign pedophiles and child sex offenders and it is imperative that organisations like **SISHA** continue to investigate and prosecute these offenders and protect women and children from exploitation..

On the 17th of October, **SISHA** assisted NGO - International Justice Mission and the Cambodia National Police with the arrest of a Russian millionaire in Sihanoukville province. The Russian has been charged and remanded in custody for rape and debauchery (indecent sexual acts) of eighteen (18) underage girls ranging from 9 years to 15 years of age. Three other Cambodian offenders have also been charged and remanded in custody for procuring and selling the girls to the Russian offender.



‘Police locate pornographic evidence’

On the 23rd of October, **SISHA** commenced an investigation into the trafficking of a 14 year old Khmer girl to Malaysia where she was placed into bonded labor for 1 year and raped continuously before escaping back to Cambodia with the assistance of friends. **SISHA** has identified the offenders and will co-operate with Cambodia Police in having the offenders arrested and prosecuted in the near future. More on this amazing story in the November newsletter.



‘Police use armed police escort to transport the offender to Phnom Penh Municipal Court’

SISHA Bank Account – **SISHA** is constantly seeking financial support from socially conscious companies and like minded individuals who wish to assist **SISHA** in rescuing victims from trafficking, sexual and non-sexual exploitation, bonded labor, rape and sexual assault. For those who wish to provide financial support, **SISHA** now has a Cambodian bank account and all donations can be sent to the following account.

Beneficiary’s Bank (BBK)
ANZ Royal Bank of Cambodia Limited
Swift Code: ANZBKHPP

Beneficiary (BNF)
Account Name: SISHA Limited
Account Number: 662656